

ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA AWARENESS**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

2010 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This concurrent resolution of the Legislature and the Governor urges Utahns to increase their awareness of the impact of Alzheimer's disease.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ recognizes the citizens of Utah who are battling Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia and their caregivers as courageous Utahns engaged in a healthcare battle of the 21st century;
- ▶ encourages their families, neighbors, employers, congregations, and the community at large to readily communicate their support, lend a helping hand, and promote open discussion about Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia;
- ▶ urges Utah's care provider industry to continue working hand-in-hand with families to support and care for those coping with the devastating effects of Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia;
- ▶ recommends that all Utahns recognize their risk and personally adopt a brain-healthy lifestyle to reduce the controllable risks of the disease; and
- ▶ urges Utah's brain health research and medical communities to continue their efforts to make the breakthroughs necessary to treat and ultimately prevent Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia, comprising 70% of all cases;

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the 5th leading cause of death in America of persons aged 65 and older;

WHEREAS, every 70 seconds, a new case of Alzheimer's disease occurs somewhere in America;

WHEREAS, over 40,000 people in Utah are afflicted with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia, including one in eight people over the age of 65 and nearly one-half of all persons over the age of 85;

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is not exclusively a disease of the aged, as younger onset dementia has also afflicted Utahns in their 30's and 40's;

WHEREAS, dementia is a category of symptoms characterized by loss of or decline in memory and other cognitive abilities and is caused by various diseases and conditions that result in damaged brain cells, including Alzheimer's disease;

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a neurodegenerative disease that is insidious at its onset, results in gradual loss of memory and other cognitive functions, and eventually results in death;

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is accompanied by memory loss, poor judgment, changes in personality and behavior, and a tendency to wander, resulting in an increased risk for accidental injury, getting lost, abuse, neglect, and exploitation of those afflicted;

WHEREAS, Utahns live longer than the rest of the nation and the greatest risk factor for Alzheimer's disease is increasing age, with more than 90% of Alzheimer's cases developing in people older than 65;

WHEREAS, Utah has the highest projected percentage increase in Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia at 127%, compared with all other states for the time period covering 2000 to 2025;

WHEREAS, the number of persons in Utah with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to nearly 60,000 by 2025 as the baby boom generation enters the age of greatest risk for the disease;

WHEREAS, a person with Alzheimer's disease lives an average of eight years and may live up to 20 years after diagnosis;

WHEREAS, 70% of persons with Alzheimer's disease are cared for by family and friends at home;

WHEREAS, In 2008, 90,283 family members, friends, and neighbors in Utah provided unpaid care for a person with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia;

WHEREAS, in 2008, these individuals provided 77,932,159 hours of unpaid care, valued at \$865,046,968;

WHEREAS, most families are honored to provide care for a loved one suffering from Alzheimer's, but some experience high levels of care-related stress, depression, and other negative health and economic outcomes;

WHEREAS, people with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia often require substantial amounts of paid care from private resources;

WHEREAS, average Medicare payments per person for beneficiaries aged 65 and older with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia were almost three times higher than average Medicare payments for other Medicare beneficiaries in the same age group;

WHEREAS, in 2005, the direct costs to Medicare and Medicaid for care of people with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia and the related indirect costs to businesses for employees who were caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia amounted to over \$148 billion nationally;

WHEREAS, these costs will continue to rise each year as the number of people with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia grows with the aging of the population;

WHEREAS, the field of Alzheimer's research is evolving rapidly and provides new hope for slowing the progress, delaying the effects, or even preventing the onset of Alzheimer's disease, with clinical trials examining a host of possible interventions, such as cognitive training, breakthrough medications, diet and exercise, and immunization; and

WHEREAS, research has also substantiated that a brain-healthy lifestyle, including proper nutrition, appropriate exercise, cognitive activity, and social engagement may also reduce controllable risk factors for Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, recognize the citizens of Utah who are battling the disabling effects of Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia and their caregivers as courageous Utahns engaged in a major healthcare battle of the 21st century.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage their families, neighbors, employers, congregations, and the community at large to readily

94 communicate their support, lend a helping hand, and promote open discussion about
95 Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia.

96 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge Utah's care
97 provider industry to continue working hand-in-hand with families to support and care for those
98 coping with the devastating effects of Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia.

99 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor recommend that
100 all Utahns personally adopt a brain-healthy lifestyle to reduce their risk of Alzheimer's disease
101 or a related dementia by staying mentally fit, socially engaged, physically active, and adopting
102 a brain-healthy diet.

103 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge Utah's brain
104 health research and medical communities to continue their efforts through studies and clinical
105 research to treat, prevent, and ultimately cure Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

106 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the National
107 Alzheimer's Association and to its Utah Chapter.